



EACC NEWS

The East Asia Christian Conference is an organ of continuing fellowship and co-operation among the Churches and Christian Councils in East Asia.

Secretary for Information: Ruth K. Cadwallader

August 1, 1972

Vol. 7, No. 14

ALEX JOHN PREVIEWS MISSIONS PERSONNEL WORK

Rev. Alexander John, the EACC Secretary designate for Missions Personnel portfolio arrived at Bangkok on 22nd July. He was returning from a meeting on Ecumenical Sharing of Personnel held near Geneva in Switzerland from 17-21 July. There he represented the EACC concerns at the meeting, which provided the occasion to follow up the deliberations on the exchange of personnel drawn from churches of different traditions in all parts of the world to render needed service for mission anywhere. The earlier meetings were held in Cartigny 1970 and at La Cenacle in 1971.

Reviewing the implications of the regional ecumenical portfolio for exchange of missions personnel, Mr. John affirmed his conviction about Asian participation in the world mission of the church while underlining at the same time the necessity of interflow among the six continents of those who bear witness to the salvation in Christ.

In a session at the EACC office here the terms of service of Mr. John were further clarified in personal discussions with the General Secretary. Mr. John will join the EACC secretariat latest by the end of October 1972. He will also be part of those attending on EACC behalf the Conference on "Salvation Today" to be held here from 28th December 1972 to 12th January 1973.

MRS. CADWALLADER RETURNS HOME

Mrs. Ruth Cadwallader, Information Secretary of the EACC left Bangkok for Rangoon on 29th July on the first stage of her return journey to her home country USA. The Fourth Assembly of the EACC appointed her in 1968 as Information Secretary within the General Secretary's office at Bangkok. Till 1970 July she worked part time in compiling and releasing the fortnightly news of the EACC and the quarterly magazine "Asia Focus".

At an informal dinner to bid her farewell U Kyaw Than said "Your strenuous labours to develop our Information Service from a limited and domestic framework to a new level of organization and outreach will ever be remembered in the history of the EACC."

Mrs. Cadwallader had been a spirited interpreter of the hopes and frustrations of the churches in Asia in their relation to the missionary system of the west. Herself a wife of a former Baptist Mission Treasurer in Thailand Mrs. Cadwallader had experienced different aspects of church/missions relations in both settings of sending and receiving bodies.

Her deep interest in Asian Christian Service and its concerns for the victims of the Indo-China war had been more than what was ordinarily expected of an Information Secretary.

From Burma she and her two children will proceed to New Delhi, Kabul, and Jerusalem before flying on to New York. She will then join her husband who had gone ahead for a position in the ministry to foreign students at Eastern Michigan University. Announcement of the new appointment to the information desk is scheduled to be made some weeks later.

US BOMBING OF N. VIETNAM DIKES

GENEVA - "I raise with you....one issue of supreme urgency and moral import..... In recent days we have made in-depth enquiries with western Europeans who have personally witnessed the situation since late June, and are forced to conclude that.....intentional bombing of dikes must be taking place, and make an urgent appeal to you to use your authority as Commander-in-Chief of the Military Forces of the USA immediately to cease this bombing." So wrote Dr. E. C. Blake, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches to the President of USA on 11th July.

Mr. Jean Thoroval, correspondent of Agence France Presse reported that he and other foreign journalists witnessed on July 11, repeated direct bombings by US aircraft of the dikes they were inspecting. Swedish television films made in late June showed serious bomb damage done to dikes some five days prior to their visit.

Meanwhile in Washington, Presidential Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler declared to newsmen "there has not been and there will be no targeting of dams and dikes in North Vietnam". He also pointed out that US Defense Secretary Laird had said that if anti-aircraft ordnance was placed atop a dike and was fired at or posed a problem to US aircraft "there could have been a strike against that installation".

Dr. Blake in his letter to the US President conveyed that "it has been estimated that more than 1,000,000 lives would be immediately lost if the violent floods which threaten the region each rainy season were not contained. Of the 18,000,000 inhabitants of (North Vietnam) more than 10,000,000 live in areas protected by the fluvial and maritime dikes"....

ECAFE BUILDS; AND STUDIES SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BANGKOK - Described as "the only United Nations building east of Jerusalem" the construction activities of a \$ 5 million complex had started at Bangkok this month. Test piles were being driven and a formal ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone is scheduled for October. Occupancy is foreseen by middle of 1975 approximately.

The building will provide headquarters for the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) which has been based in Bangkok since 1949 and will also house other UN offices now located elsewhere in the city. Under an agreement between the UN and the government of Thailand, the complex will include a two-wing, 14 storey office building, a new conference building, and a seven-storey service building.

Land for the new buildings adjacent to the present site of ECAFE has been made available by the Thai government under lease. The buildings are being financed by the UN under plans approved by the General Assembly in December 1970.

Meanwhile the eleventh session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians ended on 27th July at Manila having given special attention to social statistics. Chiefs of statistical departments and international statistics experts from some fourteen countries in Asia and from six outside the region attended the meeting. The emphasis laid on aligning social justice with economic progress by the International Development Strategy for the UN second Development Decade (1971-80) was given special attention in the deliberations. The statisticians paid greater attention on measuring quality of life and social justice for the average man.

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ECUMENICAL WORK PROGRESSES IN BANGLADESH

Mr. Subash Sangma who served as the Honorary General Secretary of the Garo Baptist Union from 1954-1959 was elected to be the first full-time Secretary of Bangladesh Jatio Church Parisad (National Council of Churches) at the council's meeting in July. The Garo Baptist Union he had served has 12,000 communicant members. Mr. Sangma was serving as the Principal of the Bible Training Institute at Birisiri and had his theological training at the Union Theological Seminary, Gujranwalla, in Pakistan. In 1968 he visited Australia for nine months on the invitation of the Baptist churches in Australia. Forty-two years of age, he was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Council.

In the area of relief Mr. Timothy Das, a civil engineer by training and the son of a Christian family from northern Bangladesh took over responsibilities for the Khulna Housing programme from Dr. M. Harun who left Bangladesh on completion of his term. Mr. H. R. Amit, director of Bangladesh Ecumenical Relief and Rehabilitation Service (BERRS) in expressing his deep appreciation for the services EACC extended through Dr. Harun indicated how well the latter had launched the housing programme. He was described by another as the master mind and driving force behind the project in Khulna area. In a few months he had built up from scratch an organisation in which responsibility was taken by the local workers at every level. Procedures were developed for the complicated work of ordering and delivering the materials required for thousands of houses.

A "BERRS" provided house is $16\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long, 9 ft. wide, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high with a covered 'verandah' space $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide. The target was 8000 units of shelters for those whose houses were destroyed during the war of independence.

TWO WORLD CONFESSIONAL BODIES MEET IN INDONESIA

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Lutheran World Federation at Prapat, on the banks of Lake Toba in Sumatra, concluded on 20th July. Some twenty of the members with special invitees from Lutheran churches in Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, India and Papua/New Guinea attended the meeting. The deliberations centred round the issue of ecumenical cooperation between the churches of the Lutheran tradition and others as well as the issue of communication. Reports of the agreement between the Lutheran churches and the churches of the reformed tradition; joint study with the members of the Roman Catholic Church as well as with the Anglicans were among those considered by the Committee. Four churches (HKBP; GKPS; HKI; PKB) in Indonesia were now members of the Lutheran World Federation. The issue on Communication highlighted the concern for communication of the gospel on the one hand and communication among the churches on the other.

On 21st July the officers of the Lutheran World Federation and the total membership of the Executive Committee of World Alliance of Reformed churches met at Djakarta in a joint meeting. It was the first meeting of its kind. The issue of ecumenical relations with those churches beyond each tradition and the issue of human rights irrespective of colour, race or nationality were discussed. The two world confessional bodies agreed to accept observers from each other at their future Executive Committee meetings.

Briefs:

. General Council of the Church of Christ in Thailand met at Bangkok on 27th and 28th July. The members also attended on the opening day an inter-religious meeting sponsored annually by the Department of religious affairs of the government of Thailand. The Council reviewed the progress of the life and mission of the church and considered new projects such as the proposed christian college of higher education. The reduction of subsidies from the related missions was another matter taken up by the General Council.

. The Executive Committee of the Korean Association of Accredited Theological Schools (KAATS) held recently decided to hold the association's annual meeting in conjunction with the KAATS lectureship. Seven scholars had been nominated as researchers committed to work on their papers with special concern for the genuine and independent theology which is firmly rooted in the Korean context. The dates of the Lectureship were fixed for October 23 and 24 of 1972 at Yonsei University, graduate school of Administration, at Seoul.

. President Bhutto was among those invited to address the meetings in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the Christian Hospital Association and Christian Medical Association of Pakistan held at Taxila on 26th and 27th July.

. Forms to apply for grants from the Funds of the Fellowship of the Least Coin are available from the Executive Secretary of Asian Church Women's Conference presently at:-

Christian Compound
Etawah, U. P.
India

Personal letters to Mrs. R. Cadwallader, the outgoing Information Secretary of the EACC may be addressed to her at:-

89 Oakwood Ave.
Ypsilanti, Michigan
USA 48197

Correspondence regarding EACC news and Information may be sent to the Information Secretary, EACC, 14/2 Pramuan Road, Bangkok.

N.B. THERE WILL BE NO ISSUE OF EACC NEWS ON 15TH AUGUST. THE NEXT ISSUE OF NEWS WILL BE ON 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1972.



ASIAN CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Vietnam
Laos
Cambodia

Newsletter

Director: Samuel M. Isaac

Information: Ruth K. Cadwallader

sign of christian presence

AUGUST 1, 1972



Some of the girls in the tailoring course offered by the Young Christian Farmers Movement in Vinh Long at Huu Thanh village.



120) The attractive young instructor helps prepare the girls for a vocation in sewing which will help them to be able to contribute to their families needs.



121) The girls come from several villages close by 122) and study for three months. Presently 31 have finished the course.



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123) The Monteganrd people of Vietnam are bearing the most disastrous
 124) burden of all during the present devastation of Vietnam. These
 125) unfortunate people have been exploited and used by all sides in the
 conflict.

s i a n c h r i s t i a n s e r v i c e n e w s

REFUGEE
POPULATION
INCREASES

With the recent increase in fighting in South Vietnam, the refugee population had reportedly gone up by another 800,000. In 23 out of the 44 provinces in Vietnam these refugees had experienced too much of the ravages of war and change of hands between conflicting forces.

Refugee camps resulting from this influx were characterised by appalling sanitary conditions, lack of employment opportunities for the able-bodied, due to distances from the cities and dependence on handouts.

Weary of being evacuated and resettled constantly, these poor victims enforced to live the life of refugees cry for peace.

YOUNG
CHRISTIAN
FARMERS'
MOVEMENT

Piggery, Fishery and Agricultural Projects as planned aim to provide credit to cooperative members of the Programme Coordinating Committee in Vinh Long Province, 136 km. SW of Saigon to enable them to engage in swine production, fishery, and vegetable farming. ACS allocated US\$14,890 to the Programme Coordinating Committee, through the Young Christian Farmers' Movement. Each of the 9 cooperating member organizations received US\$1,654 to be added to their initial capital of US\$2,150 each. With the first remittance of US\$4,963 by ACS, each organization could loan to the first three families selected among their respective members. The loan is returnable in two years, in installments beginning six months after grant.

..... Laos

RURAL
MEDICAL
CENTRE

Based at the crossroads (almost) in Paksong/Lahanam, 70 km. south of Savannakhet City near Route 13, a medical team serves as the only functional source of medical service to villages within a radius of 50 km. from the Centre. 16,518 patients received treatment in 5 village clinics and at the Rural Medical Centre. 139 in-patients have been admitted during the early five months of the year which is equivalent to 408.5 in-patient days. 177 operations have been performed. Three deaths have been registered in April and May. 5,292 immunization procedures for BCG, DPT, and Polio have been done among school and out of school children and some adults.

A public health programme has been initiated in addition to the training of nurse assistants at the centre. The teams have been deployed to various villages to have more coverage and to serve more people.

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O
WEAVING
CENTRE

The Weaving Centre serves as the initial effort in developing agro-based socio-economic development projects. From the graduates of this centre and other women participants in weaving projects in other parts of Laos will develop in slow stages various joint projects, cooperatives-producers, marketing, consumers, credit, etc.

Graduates of the three-month course feel that they need more time to acquire adeptness in their newly learned skills at weaving cotton and silk tin sin, sin, shawls, napkins, table runners, bookmarks, etc. Some products of the trainees have been sent to other countries together with those woven by refugees in Paksane and Ban Thalut.

Since MRS. RUTH CADWALLADER, EACC Information Secretary had completed her term and returned to her homeland, correspondence regarding EACC/ACS matters should be addressed to:-

The Information Secretary
14/2 Pramuan Road
Bangkok

Personal letters to Mrs. Ruth Cadwallader may be addressed to:-

89 Oakwood Ave.
Ypsilanti, Michigan
USA 48197

EACC NEWS

ACS Newsletter

East Asia Christian Conference

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